



State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

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Pugh appointed new head of Black Mountain Center

RALEIGH – Genevieve D. Pugh is the new Director of the Black Mountain Center. Her appointment was announced today by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom. Pugh replaces Dr. Sally Ludlum who retires as Director on September 30 after 32 years of state service.

Pugh currently serves as Assistant Director of the Black Mountain Center. She is a 2001 winner of the Governor's Award for Excellence, which recognized her public service and her voluntary contributions to the field of developmental disabilities and other disabling conditions within North Carolina and the nation.

"It is a distinct honor to follow in the footsteps of someone as highly regarded in the field of developmental disabilities as Dr. Sally Ludlum," Pugh said. "Black Mountain Center has benefitted from her vision and leadership. She will be missed. It is also a pleasure to continue to expand my role as the leader of the highly proficient and dedicated staff at Black Mountain Center. They daily demonstrate the highest commitment to excellence in care and treatment. The opportunity to work with the staff in this new role is truly exciting."

A 17-year state employee, she has worked in mental health positions in both North and South Carolina. She served as the Center's Director of Program Administration from 1996-97 and as a psychologist in the Outreach Program from 1995-96. Prior to that, Pugh served as both a rehabilitation unit psychologist and an instructor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the College of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston. She also worked for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and the Western Carolina Center, Morganton.

She has authored or co-authored five professional publications, and presented 17 additional papers at conferences on topics ranging from traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, and developmental disabilities and aging. Pugh is a past president of the North Carolina Chapter of American Association on Mental Retardation and serves on their national board.

She has been an active member of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps and the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and has previously served on the RehabCare National Clinical Advisory Board. In 1995, she participated in the writing of the N.C. Comprehensive plan for Services/Supports for Persons with Brain Injury. Her leadership and motivation guided the development of Black Mountain Center's proposal for a 12-bed Neurobehavioral Unit for individuals with behavioral needs resulting from traumatic brain injury.

In 1997, Pugh was recognized by the Buncombe County Excellence in Public Service Awards Program as the outstanding professional among city, county, state and federal governmental employees. In 1998, she initiated the Annual Brain Injury Survivor Retreat for individuals in Western North Carolina.



(more)

Pugh Appointed
Page 2

Black Mountain Center is one of five regional developmental disabilities facilities operated by the state Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. The 119-bed facility provides residential care and specialized treatment to individuals who have severe to profound mental retardation and significant medical needs. Black Mountain Center also operates a 71-bed Medicaid Alzheimer's Unit and provides a 24-hour Respite Program designed to assist families who need temporary relief from the intense pressures of constant caregiving responsibilities and, thereby, to prevent the premature admission of persons with Alzheimer's Disease to traditional nursing homes.

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